



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Robert Baseman

Serial No. 10/669,760

Group Art Unit 3623

Filed September 25, 2003

Examiner Meinecke Diaz, Susanna

For METHOD FOR INTEGRATED
SUPPLY CHAIN AND FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT

Confirmation No. 4384

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PETITION FOR A ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

The undersigned received the restriction requirement mailed on September 21, 2004 on November 8, 2004. The mailing address on the restriction requirement appears correct; however, the undersigned requests that the office records be checked so that mail is directed to the address below.

Applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension of time to respond to the restriction requirement mailed September 21, 2004. The Commissioner is authorized to charge attorney's deposit account 50-0510 (IBM Yorktown) for the fees required to grant the petition. Given the mailing problem noted above, the undersigned hereby petitions that the fees be waived.

Applicant elects with traverse the group 1 invention, and elects with traverse the species 1 invention. By this election claims 20-25 have been elected.

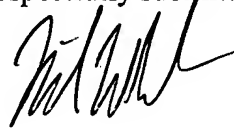
The undersigned notes that the preamble of claim 20 (group 1) and claim 27 (group 2) are identical. In addition, the undersigned notes that the first recited element in claims 20 and 27 are identical. Thus, the only difference between the claims of group 1 and group 2 is the second recited element. It is also noted that part b of claim 20 and the second element of claim 27 are quite similar; one relates to optimizing supply chain design and the other specifies identifying optimal

supply chain design. In view of this, it appears that the inventions of groups 1 and 2 would not be separately classified and there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine claims which primarily differ from one another respect to a single element. Similarly, species 2 (claim 26) includes the same preamble and same first recited element. This species would also appear to be classified the same classifications, and no undue burden would arise from examination of this claim.

The Examiner is reminded that the parent application (09/534,715, now U.S. Patent 6,671,673) was previously subjected to a restriction requirement. Division of the application into four different patent applications (as would be required if the restriction and election requirements are not withdrawn) would be an undue burden on the applicant in terms of filing fees, issue fees and maintenance fees.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested, that either or both the restriction requirement and election requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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